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	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 327828

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MASS, MOPS, RW, US
SUBJECT: RWANDAN PRESIDENT MEETS WITH U/S WISNER

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. IN THEIR OCTOBER 8 MEETING AT THE PENTAGON, UNDERSECRETARY WISNER CONGRATULATED RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA ON THE SIGNING OF THE AUGUST 4 PEACE ACCORDS. THE PRESIDENT THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS ASSISTANCE WITH THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED FOR CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS. HABYARIMANA STRESSED THAT BOTH SIDES WERE COMMITTED TO PEACE AND WELCOMED THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF UN PEACEKEEPERS. HABYARIMANA SAID THAT EGYPTIAN, TUNISIAN, MOCOCCAN, AND BELGIAN TROOPS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE UN FORCE, AND THAT HE THOUGHT THE SYG WOULD ASK FRANCE AS WELL. THE TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF AID TO THE WAR WOUNDED AND REVIEWED RWANDAN RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AND UGANDA. END SUMMARY

3. DURING A PRIVATE WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. RWANDAN PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYARIMANA MET WITH DOD UNDERSECRETARY WISNER AT THE PENTAGON ON OCTOBER 8. HABYARIMANA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR UWIMANA AND MINISTER OF PLAN

NGIRABATWARE. JAMES WOODS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
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DEFENSE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND SARA SEWALL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PEACE KEEPING AND PEACE ENFORCEMENT, ALSO ATTENDED FOR DOD, ALONG WITH AF/C DESKOFF MARY GRANDFIELD. THE TONE OF THE MEETING. WHICH WAS CONDUCTED ENTIRELY IN FRENCH, WAS FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE. A MILITARY HONOR CORDON GREETED THE PRESIDENT AT THE PENTAGON ENTRANCE, AND HE WAS VISIBLY PLEASED.

PEACE PROCESS, UN PEACEKEEPERS DISCUSSED

4. MR. WISNER CONGRATULATED THE PRESIDENT ON THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED OUR PLEASURE AT THE UPCOMING ARRIVAL OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN RWANDA. THE PRESIDENT THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND NOTED THAT COL. TONY MARLEY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOBILIZATION DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD AND EMPHASIZED RWANDA'S NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS IT FACED THE ENORMOUS TASKS OF DEMOBILIZATION AND THE RESETTLEMENT OF SOME 350,000 DISPLACED. HABYARIMANA NOTED THAT DURING THE WAR

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MILITARY SPENDING WENT FROM 2 PERCENT OF GNP TO ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF GNP. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DEMOBILIZE 30,000 TROOPS AND TO REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING TO ITS PREWAR LEVEL.

5. MR. WISNER ASKED WHAT CONDITIONS THE UN TROOPS COULD EXPECT TO FACE IN RWANDA. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT THE
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PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IN RWANDA IS PEACEFUL, THAT BOTH GOR AND RPF FORCES ARE COMMITTED TO PEACE, AND THAT THE UN TROOPS WILL BE WELCOMED. HE SAID THAT THE UN HAD ALREADY APPROACHED EGYPT, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO AND BELGIUM ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AND NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL PLANNED TO ALSO ASK FRANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT GIVEN BELGIUM'S COLONIAL PAST IN THE REGION HE FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT BELGIUM NOT BE THE ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE. MR. WISNER URGED THE PRESIDENT TO PUSH THE UN TO END ITS MISSION AS SOON AS CONDITIONS ALLOW, AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL PRESSURES IN EUROPE AS WELL AS IN THE U.S. AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING FORCES.

6. TURNING TO THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE, HABYARIMANA

NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONTAINS FIVE DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES. WHICH MADE GOVERNING DIFFICULT; HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VARIOUS PARTIES WERE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GIVE EVERYONE A VOICE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE MENTIONED THE COUNTRY'S PLANS FOR A FUTURE ELECTIONS AND STATED THAT THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS.

U.S. ASSISTANCE SOUGHT FOR ECONOMY, WAR WOUNDED

7. THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED RWANDA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE BUDGETARY SUPPORT, SINCE THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ARE
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SERIOUSLY DEPLETED. HE ASKED THAT THE US USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE IMF AND WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT RWANDA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS IT CARRIES OUT THE MANDATED STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM. MR. WISNER SAID THE U.S. WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP ENSURE THAT RWANDA'S REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

8. THE PRESIDENT RAISED THE PRESSING PROBLEM OF DISABLED VETERANS. HE SAID THERE ARE 800 ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ALONE. OF WHOM 100 ARE COMPLETELY DISABLED. THE OTHER 700 NEED VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. MR. WISNER SAID THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. COULD ASSIST WITH A PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF TRAINING.

9. THE RWANDANS ASKED ABOUT OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MR. WOODS SAID THAT THE ONLY PROJECT AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT FOR RWANDA IS A PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN MAINTAINING SECURITY IN NATIONAL PARKS. WISNER EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO PRESERVE RWANDA'S NATIONAL PARKS, WHICH ARE A CRITICAL NATIONAL RESOURCE. THE PRESIDENT REGRETTED THAT THE AVERAGE RWANDAN DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE PARKS FOR THE RESOURCE THAT THEY ARE, AND NOTED THAT THERE IS AN INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NEED TO PRESERVE PARK ECOLOGY AND THE ECONOMIC NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND.

ZAIRE. UGANDA, SOMALIA DISCUSSED

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10. NEAR THE END OF THE MEETING MR. WISNER ASKED THE PRESIDENT ABOUT RWANDA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY WITH UGANDA AND ZAIRE. THE

PRESIDENT NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH UGANDA HAD IMPROVED. AND THAT ON HIS RECENT REGIONAL TRIP TO EXPLAIN THE PEACE ACCORD, RWANDA AND UGANDA HAD SIGNED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AGREEING TO OPEN THE LAND BORDER. WHICH WILL GIVE RWANDA ACCESS TO THE SEA THROUGH UGANDA. A JOINT BORDER OBSERVATION GROUP IS NOW AT WORK TO ENSURE THAT THE BORDER REMAINS PEACEFUL.

11. HABYARIMANA SAID THAT HE SAW A REAL NEED TO FIND

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OTHER CAPABLE PEOPLE IN ZAIRE WHO CAN FORM A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE HOSTILITY THAT CHARACTERIZES BOTH MOBUTU AND AND THE CURRENT ANTI-MOBUTU GROUPS. THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING MOBUTU AT THE END OF OCTOBER AT THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION MEETING AND OFFERED TO PASS ON ANY USG MESSAGE. MR. WISNER TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HE NEEDS TO URGE MOBUTU TO ACCEPT A PEACEFUL POLITICAL TRANSITION.

12. SOMALIA WAS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. WISNER TOLD PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA THE GIST OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENT ON SOMALIA AND DISCUSSED THE DANGER OF THE U.N. TROOPS PULLING OUT TOO SOON. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. VIEW IS THAT THE UN NEEDS TO REESTABLISH A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT IN SOMALIA BY WORKING IN THREE WAYS: MILITARILY, POLITICALLY AND BY REINFORCEMENT OF THE UN'S ROLE IN SOMALIA. PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. POSITION ON SOMALIA. WHARTON

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